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THE CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIA- TION OF AMERICA.

The first annual meeting of the CENTRAL MODERN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE (afterwards named The Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America) was held at the University of Chicago, December 30, 31, 1895, and January 1, 1896.

FIRST SESSION.

The first session was convened Monday, December 30, at 7.30 p. m. Professor F. A. Blackburn called the meeting to order and introduced Dean H. P. Judson, who, in the absence of the President of the University of Chicago, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the University.

The President of the Conference, Professor W. H. Carruth, of the University of Kansas, then delivered an address. He surveyed the main aspects of the development of instruction in Modern Languages in the Central States, basing his statements on carefully collected statistics. He then outlined the work which the Conference had to perform.

After the meeting the University of Chicago received the delegates in Cobb Hall.

SECOND SESSION.

The second session was called to order December 31, at 8.45 a. m., by President W. H. Carruth.

Professor H. Schmidt-Wartenberg submitted a report as Secretary of the Conference.

After introductory remarks he continued as follows: I cannot attempt to outline the history of Modern Language study and teaching in the United States. It will suffice to mention the main event in that history: the founding of the Modern Language Association of America. During the past twelve years this Association has done more than any other agency to elevate our profession, and to bring the study of Modern Languages into full academic recognition, by basing it on sound pedagogical principles and by stimulating scientific research. From the Modern Language Association of America have sprung the American Dialect Society and the smaller associations in the different States; from it has emanated the spirit that has shown its activity wherever the question of Modern Language study has been seriously discussed.

The evident fact that the immense territory of the United States makes a direct influence through active participation of all members in the meetings of the Modern Language Association of America a physical impossibility, excludes *a priori* the intimation of sectional feeling in those States that are geographically too far removed from the Eastern centers of learning. Representatives of those States are now here assembled to establish permanently a Modern Language Association that is to carry out the ideas of the older Association within a new territory.

For some time past the feasibility of taking such a step had been discussed in the Central States; but these occasional expressions remained more or less private until the publication of the following circular letter:

Dear Sir:—

We have discovered by occasional correspondence that several Modern Language instructors in the West feel themselves practically shut out of the Modern Language Association of America, by the barriers of distance and expense. What would you think of the advisability of forming a Mississippi Valley, or Western Modern Language Association (not at all as antagonistic to the M. L. A.), with the instructors in the State Universities as nucleus, to meet in Chicago, Bloomington, Indiana, St. Louis, or perhaps at the seats of the institutions represented? If the replies to this are generally favorable, a provisional committee will be asked to meet in June and prepare a call for a first meeting. If you approve of the plan please suggest five names for such a committee.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES BUNDY WILSON,
State University of Iowa.

LAURENCE FOSSLER,
State University, Nebraska.

W. H. CARRUTH,
University of Kansas.

The favorable responses to this letter warranted an early meeting of the preliminary committee. The persons suggested for this committee, in the order of the number of votes received, was as follows: Professors C. B. Wilson, W. H. Carruth, L. Fossler, Calvin Thomas, F. A. Blackburn, G. E. Karsten, Starr W. Cutting, G. Hempl, W. M. Baskervill, H. Schmidt-Wartenberg, A. Fortier, A. R. Hohlfeld, A. H. Tolman, W. E. Simonds, G. O. Curme, C. F. McClumpha.

The following committee on organization was selected: Professors G. Hempl, C. B. Wilson, W. M. Baskervill, L. Fossler, G. E. Karsten, W. H. Carruth, H. Schmidt-Wartenberg.

On Friday, June 21, the delegates convened at the Hotel Barry, Chicago, Ill., at 10.45 a. m. There were present Professors C. B. Wilson, W. H. Carruth, G. E. Karsten, L. Fossler, F. A. Blackburn, J. T. Hatfield, C. W. Pearson, H. Schmidt-Wartenberg. Professor W. H. Carruth was chosen chairman, and Professor H. Schmidt-Wartenberg was chosen secretary of the meeting. A vote of thanks was extended to the originators of the plan. Professor C. B. Wilson gave an account of his correspondence with prospective members. Letters were read from Professors J. G. Moore (Univ. of Minn.), L. Wiener (Univ. of Mo.), D. K. Dodge (Univ. of Ill.), St. W. Cutting (Univ. of Chicago), W. H. Rosenstengel and F. Wilkins (Univ. of Wis.), Calvin Thomas (Univ. of Mich.), H. Edgren (Univ. of Nebr.), M. W. Sampson (Univ. of Ind.), A. Hohlfeld (Vanderbilt Univ.).

After some discussion the name of the association was agreed upon as the Central Modern Language Conference. In this connection the question arose as to the relation to the Modern Language Association of America. All members present expressed themselves in favor of an independent association, working in harmony with the Modern Language Association. It was agreed that the first regular meeting be held in Chicago during the Christmas holidays, on two days not conflicting with the meeting of the Modern Language Association. The selection of date was left to a committee

consisting of the president and the secretary pro tem. The following committees were appointed: Committee on Constitution, Professors Ch. B. Wilson, G. E. Karsten, L. Fossler; this committee was to report in the afternoon. Committee on Arrangement: Three members to be appointed by the Secretary as chairman. The membership fee was fixed at \$2 a year. The officers of the Conference were to consist of the president, two vice-presidents, the secretary, the treasurer, and four additional members.

The following were appointed a Committee of five on Programme: Professors G. E. Karsten, G. Hempl, St. W. Cutting, W. M. Baskervill, H. Edgren. The meeting adjourned at 12.30 p. m.

The afternoon meeting which convened at 2 p. m., in Cobb Hall, University of Chicago, was attended, in addition to those present during the forenoon, by Professor Ch. Davidson (Adelbert College), Professor J. D. Bruner, Dr. O. Dahl and Dr. de Poyen (Univ. of Chicago).

The transactions conducted by the delegates were ratified. Professor G. E. Karsten suggested the desirability of joining forces with the English Conference. Professor A. Blackburn explained the aim of this newly founded society: no definite plan was adopted. The report of the Committee on Constitution was read and voted on; with certain minor changes the constitution drawn up by the Committee was voted on to be recommended to the first regular meeting of the Conference. The provisional officers and committees were requested to serve till the first annual meeting. President Harper met the members convened and made a short address. After an exchange of opinion concerning the publication of papers and of the proceedings of the new association, the meeting adjourned at 3.40 p. m. (The above is an abstract of the minutes.)

The establishment of a new society caused little surprise among Eastern scholars; in fact numerous communications

from there proved that the undertaking was pretty generally considered as an anticipated natural development, and as evidence of an increased interest in the cause represented by the Modern Language Association. To secure a clear understanding concerning our future relations with the latter association, the secretary had a personal interview with Professors J. W. Bright, A. M. Elliott, and M. D. Learned, and the information thus gained will, it is hoped, be of some value in settling our future policy, and establishing a common basis of action.

The list of membership of the Modern Language Association records about 400 names, in round numbers; this yields an annual income of \$1,200, barely sufficient to pay for the expenses of the Publications. Contributors have, therefore, been called upon to pay part of the cost for the printing of their articles, an arrangement that the Central Modern Language Conference would be obliged to adopt likewise; it might even be prudent to come to an agreement as to the share expected to be paid by our contributors. This one fact is in itself sufficient to demonstrate the impracticability of a splitting of forces without coöperation in the matter of publications, while other considerations would render a complete secession most deplorable. The secretary has, therefore, upon consultation with the secretary of the M. L. A., ventured to address the following letter to the members of the Modern Language Association.

[This letter is printed *supra*, p. v.]

Professor A. H. Tolman (University of Chicago) was appointed to represent the Conference at the meeting of the Association, held at New Haven, Conn., December 26, 27, 28.

In response to the above letter addressed by the Secretary of the Conference to the Secretary of the Association, the Association appointed a committee in accordance with the suggestion made in the letter (*vid. supra*, p. vi). The report of this Committee was presented to the Association December

27, p. m., and conveyed by Professor A. H. Tolman to the Conference where it was received and read.

This communication is printed *supra*, p. xx.

Prof. H. Schmidt-Wartenberg, as Treasurer of the Conference, submitted the following statement :

RECEIPTS.

Twenty-one membership fees.....\$42.00

EXPENDITURES.

Printing of circular letters.....\$ 8.35

Stationery and stamps..... 14.30

Clerical work..... 7.25

Total.....\$29.90

Balance on hand December 30th..... 12.10

The report was received.

The President then appointed the following committees :

1. Nomination of officers : Professors A. Gerber, G. A. Hench, J. Nollen, Dr. K. Pietsch, Mr. P. Grumann.
2. Place of meeting : Professors C. A. Smith, E. Baillot, Ch. Pearson, O. Heller, Dr. F. I. Carpenter.
3. Time of meeting : Professors E. Owen, C. Osthaus, St. W. Cutting, J. Th. Fruit, Dr. R. de Poyen.
4. Auditing Committee : Professors F. A. Blackburn and J. A. Wickersham.

The motion of Professor Blackburn to adopt the second plan proposed by the Secretary, and favored by the Committee of the Modern Language Association, was seconded. The four sections contained in the reply of the Committee of the M. L. A. were then read separately, and voted upon. Section three called forth a discussion by Professors Cutting, Karsten, Pearson, Nollen, Eggert, and the Secretary. The plan was adopted in whole. A motion was passed that the report of the Secretary be printed. Motion by Dr. von Klenze that the Committee on Organization be instructed to express to the

Committee of the Association the desire to meet in the West every third year. Seconded and carried.

A letter from Professor C. E. Fay, of Tufts College, asking for an expression of opinion on the part of the Society with regard to entrance examinations in Modern Languages, was read; a committee consisting of Professors Cutting, Tolman, Wilkins, Edgren, and Dr. Zimmermann, was appointed to take action.

The Convention then proceeded to the reading of papers.

1. "Some Features of Modern French Criticism." By Professor Edouard Baillot, of the University of Indiana.

On account of Professor Baillot's illness the reading of this paper was postponed.

2. "La Celestina. The Question of Authorship and Position in Spanish Literature." By Dr. C. A. Eggert, of Chicago, Ill.

The paper was discussed by Drs. von Klenze, Carpenter, E. Leser, and the author.

3. "Malay Words in English." By Professor R. Clyde Food, of Albion College, Mich.

The Saxon has always been more or less of a Bohemian. Adventure and commerce took him early to America, Africa, India, and the Far East, and as a result new commodities with strange names appeared in the home land, and new words and expressions of foreign life abounded. If from the Orient, these words were readily accepted; for, since the Middle Ages, the distant East had exerted a potent charm over the imagination of western Europe.

In 1497 Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope, visited India, and established the dominion of Portugal over the Indian seas, from southern Africa to Siam. By 1513 this dominion had reached the East Indies and had come into open conflict with the feudal Malayan princes of Malacca. After the defeat of the Spanish Armada England hastened to compete for the trade of the Orient. In 1589 a body of English merchants petitioned Queen Elizabeth for permission to send ships to the Indies; in 1600 the East India Company was chartered, and by 1614 factories were scattered